

Carderock Springs Citizens' Association  
Minutes: October 18, 2021 Board Meeting  
Held via Zoom due to Covid-19

Board Members present: Jack Orrick, Tom Deyo, Ashish Goel, Gary Ratner, Petra Jacobs, Sue Eastman, Katalin Roth

Community members present: Kimberly Carlins Young, Stefan LoBuglio, Firooz Gidfar, Katherine Stifel, Marci Greenstein, Elaine Honig

Meeting called to order by Jack Orrick at 7:34 p.m.

Agenda:

1. Approval of August and September Board meeting minutes
2. Treasurer's Report
3. Finalizing Directory text and resident information for A to Z; Discussion on Directory distribution
4. Update on Beltway widening/SDEIS comment letter
5. Debrief on Newcomers' Reception; Decision on Fall CSCA meeting and discussion on planning for future CSCA events
6. Old Business (including sign renovation)
7. New Business
8. Next Meeting – November 15; Newsletter deadline

**Item 1: Approval of August and September Board meeting minutes**

Both minutes were approved, subject to correcting Kimberly's full name to Kimberly Carlins Young.

**Item 2: Treasurer's Report – Ashish Goel**

Ashish emailed the treasurer's report to the Board on October 18<sup>th</sup>.

Highlights included that: CSCA collected \$18,453 in dues from 367 households in 2021 out of 567 households. The report showed that our dues revenue has increased each of the last four years, from \$13,450 in 2018 to \$18,453 in 2021. The number and proportion of dues-paying households has increased each year from 269 households (47%) in 2018 to 367 households (65%) in 2021.

Ashish mentioned that dues are due from each household whose members live in our community, whether they are owners or renters.

**Item 3: Directory text and resident information for A to Z; Discussion on Directory distribution**

As hoped, Sue and Ashish did receive updated information for the Directory from the Newcomers' event. Jack asked the Board to look at the Directory's text and let him know by the middle of this week which, if any, changes are needed. Jack reported that A to Z has sold about \$4,200 in ads for the Directory; that will save CSCA about \$420 in printing costs.

Of the 700 copies of the Directory which are to be printed, we plan to distribute approximately 600 to the residents in Carderock, Carderock South and adjoining residences in our newsletter distribution

area. The remaining 100 would be reserved for distribution to new residents who arrive in the next 2-3 years. In the past, we've paid a small fee for distribution to our newsletter delivery kids, and might do so again. Jack notes that there's a constant stream of people coming to and going from our neighborhood, and we don't know about many of them. In the past, realtors have kept CSCA up to date on newcomers. After some discussion, given that there were still a large number of 2019 directories in our possession, it was decided to reduce the number of printed copies to 650.

#### **Item 4: Update on Beltway widening/SDEIS Comment Letter**

Jack noted that CSCA has already developed, or is now developing, two sets of comments related to the Beltway expansion: (i) an October 8<sup>th</sup> letter to Steve Archer, NHPA; on the Section 106 materials and (ii) our comments on the Supplementary Draft Environmental Impact Statement (SDEIS), due to the State Highway Administration on November 15<sup>th</sup>. VHB will produce comments on the visual and other impacts of the flyover ramps, and we plan to incorporate this letter, along with comments that Roman Roman, an engineer who lives in the community, has been putting together on the noise analysis in the SDEIS and our prior comments on the Section 106 impacts to the community. Jack thinks we can pull these three different concerns into a single set of comments in the next couple weeks in order to meet the November 15 deadline.

Petra encouraged the Carderock Springs Elementary School to submit its own comments, because the Beltway plan will intrude on the School's property.

#### **Item 5: Debrief on Newcomers' Reception; Decision on Fall CSCA meeting and Discussion on Planning for Future CSCA Events**

Tom thought the Newcomers' event was a wonderful evening. He gave great thanks to Kimberly for being the leader and thought it was especially beneficial to have held it outside, so the kids could run around.

Kimberly noted that because everyone came at once, the welcome area was overwhelmed. Jack suggested that, for future years, we could stagger the invitations, e.g., some people could be invited to arrive at 4:30, some at 4:45 and others at 5:00. Tom recommended that we set up multiple, sequential tables to handle the key functions.

Kimberly was grateful so many people helped. She hoped that in future years we might also enlist younger members of the community to help, so as out to reduce the burdens on Board members.

Tom mentioned that it was decided that, for this year, we would not ask new families to introduce themselves. Kimberly and Jack thought that we should restore that practice in the future, so everyone can connect names and faces. We should also make better use of the "map" to identify where new families live.

As to potential future events, Kimberly noted that, in the past, CSCA has sponsored two events in the fall (Newcomers' Welcome and International Dinner) and two in the spring (Progressive Dinner and Talent Show). (The Club holds social events during the summer.) This year, the consensus of the Board was not to do a second event this fall beyond the Newcomers' event.

For spring 2022, we should do at least one event – maybe a Progressive Dinner or Progressive Drinks. Since it would only take 1-2 months to plan and implement a spring event, and we'll know more about

what the situation will be with Covid when we get closer to spring, Gary suggested that the Board wait a couple months before planning a spring event. Kimberly said that she will prepare ideas for spring event(s) in January 2022 for the Board to discuss at its February meeting.

#### **Item 6: Old Business**

With respect to refurbishing the signs, Ken Hinga has volunteered to prepare the new cross-pieces as needed. We should invite volunteers to paint the signs on the knobs, doing those knobs first for which residents volunteer to do the painting. (Tom believes that residents do not know that they, rather than CSCA, are responsible for maintaining their own signs.) CSCA will provide the supplies. Katalin and Sue will put together a program to handle the refurbishment of the signs on the knobs.

Stefan reported that the County police official he's been dealing with said that Carderock Springs had not been chosen for a pilot operation to install a "speed board;" a few other County locations were selected instead. While our community voted two years ago against a bump-out on Fenway Road because of risks to pedestrians' safety, cars do still speed on Fenway between Still Spring Court and Carderock Drive, and the community is concerned about it. The County would not permit C.S. itself to pay for a speed board because of concerns about "inequity."

Gary asked if we could seek to enlist our local political representatives to help us gain County support to address the speeding problem. Tom suggested that we should prepare a letter proposing specific solutions and that residents along Fenway Road should sign it. Jack indicated that the Board would like to pursue Stefan's offer to draft a letter for the Board to send to our local representatives.

Jack reported that the Traffic Department did not believe that there was enough foot traffic on Seven Locks Road to warrant a cross-walk. The Parks Department had indicated that they were looking at installing a cross walk on River Road south of the bridge over Cabin John Creek to link the segments of the Cabin John Creek trail. He thought maybe we should send a letter in support of this cross-walk to the Transportation Department and local officials.

#### **Item 7: New Business**

Katalin asked that we include in the Newsletter a request for everybody walking their dogs, or otherwise walking, on Carderock's streets at night to wear reflective clothing or reflective markers. This is necessary because, with the streets not well lit, it is very hard for car drivers to see pedestrians at night. That makes Katalin and others of us fearful to drive in our neighborhood at night. Jack endorsed this request.

Tom reminded us that he will be leaving the Board as Vice President in April 2022. Accordingly, arrangements will need to be made to find a new Vice President.

#### **Item 8: Next Meeting and Newsletter**

Our next meeting will be November 15<sup>th</sup>. The deadline for submitting articles for the next Newsletter will be October 29<sup>th</sup>.

Gary Ratner, Secretary

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